

PROCEEDINGS  
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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW WEASEL FROM ALABAMA.

BY ARTHUR H. HOWELL.

Weasels are exceedingly scarce and very difficult to obtain in the Southern States. Within the past year three specimens, representing both winter and summer pelage, have been received from Alabama by the Biological Survey, and these seem to represent an undescribed subspecies, closely related to *Mustela peninsulæ* (Rhoads).

The acquisition of this material is due to the energy of Mr. Lewis S. Golsan of Autaugaville, and Mr. Bennington King of Leighton, who, at my suggestion, made special efforts to obtain specimens of the Alabama Weasel.

The new race may be characterized as follows:

*Mustela peninsulæ olivacea* subsp. nov.

*Type* from Autaugaville, Ala. ♂ ad. No. 180,802, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. December 22, 1912. Collected by L. S. Golsan. Original No. 144 (9988x).

*Characters*.—Similar to *M. peninsulæ*, but color in winter pelage decidedly paler and more olivaceous; yellowish of feet less extensive.

*Color*.—Type (winter pelage): upperparts nearest to buffy-brown (of Ridgway); head slightly darker, about Natal brown; a small patch of white on each side of face behind the eyes, and a few flecks of white on top of nose; color of upperparts covering about half of front feet, the remainder, including toes, being cream-buff; toes of hind feet tinged with whitish; black tail tip about 70 mm. in length; underparts straw-color, irregularly blotched with cartridge-buff.

*Summer pelage*.—(Specimens from Leighton, Alabama): upperparts mummy-brown; head Vandyke brown with a few white flecks between the eyes; underparts cartridge-buff to colonial buff; color of upperparts encroaching on the belly; toes of front feet cream color; those of hind feet tinged with whitish.

*Skull*.—Similar to that of *peninsulæ*, with broad braincase, widely spreading zygomata, large post-orbital processes, broad and much inflated audital bullae, broad inter-pterygoid fossa and heavy molars. The bullae are of essentially the same shape as those of *peninsulæ* but are not quite so high.

*Measurements*.—Type (♂ ad.): total length, 420; tail vertebrae, 140; hind foot, 50. Skull: occipito-nasal length, 48; basilar length, 46.8; palatal length, 21.6; mastoid breadth, 25.3; zygomatic breadth, 29.3; breadth across post-orbital processes, 14; least interorbital breadth, 9; audital bullae, 15 x 7.6; width of inter-pterygoid fossa, 3.5.

*Remarks*.—On account of the scarcity in collections of *Mustela peninsulæ peninsulæ*, the range of color variation in that race is not known. The two winter specimens before me, however, differ widely, the palest one (No. 9379, Coll. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., Tarpon Springs, Florida) being about Verona-brown (of Ridgway), the other a much darker shade of brown. Both are darker and browner than the type of *olivacea*. The summer pelage of *peninsulæ* is not definitely known, but a worn specimen from Hernando Co., Florida, is decidedly lighter than the specimens of *olivacea* from Leighton. The latter do not differ much in color of the upperparts from certain specimens of *noveboracensis*, but the underparts are a duller shade of yellow.

This weasel may be instantly recognized as distinct from *Mustela noveboracensis* by its striking skull characters. The latter species ranges down the Alleghenies to northern Alabama, as evidenced by a typical specimen which I collected on Lookout Mountain near Fort Payne, in July, 1911.